

**Independence Community School Board Meeting
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
February 18, 2019**

Public Hearing

A public hearing was held at the Administrative Office, Independence, IA on February 18, 2019 at 5:50 pm for the 2019-2020 school calendar. Members Present: Eric Smith, Kim Hansen, Brian Eddy, Jennifer Sornson and Gina Trimble. Superintendent: Russell Reiter and Board Secretary: Laura Morine. The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Beth Hilliard addressed the board in opposition of the proposed calendar. Hilliard didn't think the proposed calendar allowed enough time for PD for the teachers and wondered whether families would be able to remember the schedule. While acknowledging that the public school does not need to account for afterschool religious education, she felt that it would have an impact on religious education and the ability for our teachers to teach their religious education classes after school. Additionally, she was concerned about the additional cost to the district for running busses and other expenses incurred during these part school days. Hilliard also asked if teachers had collaboration time during the regular school day. School Improvement Director Burmeister reported that in the JSHS, teachers don't have a common time for collaboration. Supt. Reiter responded that the committee had spent a lot of time considering all the options and that this calendar was what the committee thought was best for instructional time with students and collaboration of staff.

Sornson moved to adjourn public hearing, Hansen second. Public hearing ended at 6:07 pm.

Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Independence Community School Board was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Chairman Eric Smith at the Administration Building, Independence, Iowa on February 18, 2019.

Members Present: Chairman Eric Smith, Kim Hansen, Brian Eddy, Jennifer Sornson and Gina Trimble

Superintendent: Russell Reiter

Board Secretary: Laura Morine

CONSIDERATION OF ACION ON CONSENT ITEMS

Motion by Eddy, second by Hansen to approve consent items 2A-D. Trimble asked when we would know if Financial Literacy would be required and Supt. Reiter said that we are still waiting on the legislature and it doesn't look like it will be a high school requirement for next year. Smith asked that Policy 505.9: Parent and Family Engagement be modified to strike that the policy be approved annually by the Board. Motion carried 5-0.

A. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting on January 21, 2019.

B. Approval of Agenda

C. Approval of Board Policies (*changes noted)

Second Readings:

	POLICY #	POLICY NAME
1.	505.6*	Graduation Requirements
2.	502.8*	Weapons
3.	5.09*	Smoking – Drinking – Drugs
4.	906.2*	Tobacco/Nicotine-Free Environment
5.	502.10*, 502.10E1, and 502.10R1	Search and Seizure, Search and Seizure Checklist, and Search and Seizure Regulation
6.	502.11	Interviews of Students by Outside Agencies
7.	503.1 and 503.1R1	Student Conduct and Student Suspension
8.	503.2	Expulsion
9.	503.3, 503.3E1, and 503.3R1*	Fines – Fees – Charges, Fee Waiver Application, and Student Fee Waiver and Reduction Procedures
10.	503.4	Good Conduct Rule
11.	503.5	Corporal Punishment
12.	604.7*	Instruction at a Post-Secondary Educational Institution
13.	604.8*	Concurrent Enrollment Textbook Fee

First Readings:

	POLICY #	POLICY NAME
1.	504.1	Student Government
2.	504.2	Student Organizations
3.	504.3 and 504.3R1	Student Publications and Student Publications Code
4.	504.4	Student Social Events
5.	504.5	Student Performances
6.	504.7	Student Work/Intern Programs
7.	504.8	Student Activity Program
8.	505.1	Assignment of Courses
9.	505.4	Student Honors and Awards
10.	505.5	Testing Program
11.	505.7	Early Graduation
12.	505.8	Commencement
13.	505.9	Parent and Family Engagement
14.	604.11 (New Policy)	Online Courses

D. Approval of Resignations

NAME	ASSIGNMENT	DATE
Amber Whitney	Student Council/Prom Sponsor	End of 2018-2019 School Year

E. Approval of Financial Reports - Motion by Trimble, second by Sornson to approve the financial reports. Trimble reported that the Vendor Totals report don't match the list of bills from the previous month since the prepaid bills are included on the Vendor Total report and both reports are approved at the board meeting. Prepaid bills include utilities and other invoices that need to be paid before the next meeting date. Smith, Trimble, Sornson and Hansen voted "aye", Eddy abstained. Motion carried 4-0.

1. Bills – Director Trimble reviewed the bills
2. Vendor Report

3. Board Report
4. Budget Report

ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS and PRESENTATIONS

A. Comments from the Public. No public comments.

B. Comments from the Board/Superintendent. Hansen congratulated the wrestlers and coaches for their accomplishments at the State Wrestling Tournament. She had attended the four speech events, a SIAC meeting and a scheduling meetings as well the County Conference Board meeting. Eddy also congratulated the wrestling team on the 6th place finish at State Wrestling Duals. He wanted to thank the staff and administration for their work in dealing with the snow and keeping our students safe. Smith attended the Legislative Day on the Hill and was able to meet with all four of our legislators. Supt. Reiter reported that we have started to use the Equipment Breakdown Insurance that began on February 1st. Supt. Reiter had meet with the County Roads Dept. and worked out an Emergency Bus Route. The emergency route had been used twice and most of the kinks are worked out. The students are excused if they can't get to school safely. Safety first! At Wednesday night's meeting the board will review the secondary courses and scheduling. Reiter and Morine are working on the certified budget and attended a workshop. The district received the initial health insurance premium quote back on our existing plan and it was a 15.7% increase. Mark Becker and Associates are working on options to reduce that rate. Supt. Reiter is continuing to work with Iowa Big, Jesup and East Buchanan schools to complete the pilot program in March.

REPORTS

A. Building Administrator Reports

1. Junior-Senior High School Principal
2. Junior-Senior High School Assistant Principal
3. West Elementary Principal
4. East Elementary/Early Childhood Center Principal

B. District Director Reports

1. Activities Director Report
2. Director of School Improvement Report
3. Director of Technology Report
4. Director of Food Service Report
5. Director of Buildings & Grounds Report
6. Director of Transportation Report

OLD BUSINESS

A. Junior-Senior High School Scheduling Update – Supt. Reiter reported that the staff and committee has done a lot of work on scheduling and more details will be given on Wednesday night.

B. Consider Approval of the EV Car Charging Station(s) – Hansen moved, Sornson second the motion to approve the two EV Car Charging Stations with a maximum PPEL cost to the district of \$2,000. Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Consider Approval of the 2019-2020 School Calendar – Eddy moved to approve the 2019-2020 School Calendar. Hansen second the motion. Discussion was held among the board

members and Supt. Reiter on the pros and cons of the proposed calendar. Motion carried 4-1, with Smith voting nay.

B. Consider Approval of the Travel Request Form for February 2019 – Glazier National Football Clinic in St. Louis, MO. Eddy moved to approve the travel request for the football clinic. Trimble second the motion, motion carried 5-0.

C. Consider Approval of the Independence Community School District Early Graduation Applicants for March 2019 – Eddy moved to approve the Early Graduation lists for March 2019. Hansen second the motion, motion carried 5-0.

D. Consider Approval of the Fiscal Year 2018 Audit – Morine reported that she was working with AD Putz on a new procedures manual that would address the items stated in the audit finding. Trimble moved to approve the 2018 Audit. Eddy second the motion, motion carried 5-0.

E. Consider Approval of the Budget Guarantee Resolution – Morine indicated that incase the Governor doesn't sign the school funding bill, our district would need the Budget Guarantee and recommended the board approve the resolution. Resolution by Eddy: Resolved, that the Board of Directors of the Independence Community School District, will levy property taxes for the fiscal year 2019-2020 for the regular program budget adjustment as allowed under section 257.14, Code of Iowa. Trimble second the resolution. Resolution passed 5-0.

F. Discussion of Certified Early Retirement –Superintendent Reiter indicated that earlier in the year the board had indicated a package was given last year and that there would not be a need for a package this year. Reiter doesn't believe in offering a package every year or even every other year. It should be used as a tool for severe reductions or bad budget years. However, he would recommend that if we offer it this year after being approached by some eligible retirees, however he would probably not offer it again for three to four years. Eddy thought because of Chapter 20 changes that now would be a good time to offer but then not again for a while. Sornson said we should explore the option and what it could do for future budgets. Hansen would like to see a proposal this year but that an early retirement package should not be offered each year. Trimble said it is a great tool but that staff should not think it is guaranteed to be offered. Consensus of the board was for Supt. Reiter to propose a package for Wednesday night's meeting and not put a cap on how many eligible retirees could take it.

ADJOURNMENT – Trimble moved to adjourn the meeting. Eddy second. Motion carried 5-0.
Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm

Exempt Session

The Board moved into an exempt session at 7:55 pm to discuss negotiations strategies. Session ended at 9:05 pm.

Eric B. Smith, Board President

Laura J. Morine, Board Secretary